(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government propose to restore the normalcy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARJ): (a) to (d) The Bankura Damodar River Railway, a private Railway line owned by M/s. Bankura Damodar River Railway Company Limited, Calcutta is being worked by South-Eastern Railway w.e.f. 1.7.1967 in terms of an agreement entered into with the owning Company.

The train services on this line have been suspended from March' 1996 on safety considerations as the existing steam locos provided by the owning Railway Company had outlived their life and the Company did not agree to make any capital investment on the line towards replacement of track or locos.

A survey for conversion of guage and extension of the Railway line upto Tarakeshwar/Burdwan/Durgapur has been included in the current year's budget and alternative arrangements would depend on the outcome of the survey.

Present Status of Nellore Project of IFFCO

2222. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 222 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 22nd November, 1996 and state:

(a) the present status of the Nellore Project of IFFCO vis-a-vis completion date as per project schedule;

(b) by when substantial progress is expected to be achieved;

(c) whether experts opined that the cost of revamping the existing plant is much cheaper than a de-novo plant; and

(d) if so, the reasons for the unwillingness of IFFCO to take over the existing plants of HFC in Eastern Zone/Haldia project instead of going if for new plant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) The Detailed Feasibility Report (DFR) for IFFCO's Nellore project has been circulated to the appraising agencies. At present, IFFCO is evaluating the Lumpsum Turnkey bids for selection of the least cost option. The project is expected to be completed within 39 months of the date of Government's approval.

(b) At this stage, it is not possible to indicate any time frame for the implementation of the Nellore Project.

(c) The economics of revamping an existing plant would inter alia depend on the choice of technology, performance history of the facility and the condition of plant and machinery.

(d) As a Multi-state Cooperative, IFFCO has evolved its investment strategy to optimise the achievement of its corporate objectives.

Losses in Orissa due to Cyclone

2223. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether huge loss of property and several hundred deaths have been reported in Orissa due to recent cyclone;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether large scale starvation has also been reported in Orissa;

(d) whether Government have offered any financial assistance to the State Government; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The recent cyclones on the East coast have not affected Orissa.

(c) The Government of Orissa have not reported any such situation in the State. However, I have requested NHRC to enquire about this.

(d) and (e) Government of India have released its entire share of Calamity Relief fund for 1996-97 amounting to Rs. 36.78 crores including advance release of the 4th instalment amounting to Rs. 9.19 crores in the wake of